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Title: Recent blast in the North-Eastern Coal-field causing death of labourers.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government on a very important matter, which is regarding the recent blast in the underground mining at Margeta, Ledo, Tipok and Ladukalorius.

Sir, the North-Eastern Coalfields are 100 years old, which are running on manual method whereas the Advance Long Wall technology is being used in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, etc., in the underground mining system.

As a result, the coal production centre, particularly the underground mining at Borgulai, Tipok and Ledo in the District of Tinsukia, Assam have become most unsafe. The recent blast occurred due to the total negligence on the part of the management. Actually, the underground mines need to be properly checked and monitored from time to time so that the underground mining can be kept clean with sufficient air circulation. I am sorry to say that proper care was not taken in this mining centre, which caused death of four workers and three others critically injured.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Sir, despite repeated demands, since the nationalization of the coalfield in 1973 for changing of the old technology, the Ministry of Coal, Government of India did not pay proper attention to it. They simply kept on doing the production work ignoring the safety and security of the labours. On the other hand, the 100 years old coalfields have also not been able to produce visible contribution in the Corporate Social Responsibility Sector, particularly health, communication, drinking water facilities, electrification, sports infrastructure and beautification etc.[\[r64\]](#)

Sir, this is the constitutional commitment for all the private sector or public sector companies.

Sir, I am coming to the last point. After the introduction of the E-Tendering system, the local brick kiln owners have failed to get sufficient amount of coal from that Margeta coalfield. It is also disheartening to mention the fact that the North-Eastern Coalfield Limited has failed to create employment opportunities since 1986 for the local unemployed youth. That is why I urge upon the Central Government to put their serious efforts to immediately apply the advanced technology for the better production of coal as well as to ensure safety and security of the workers and to give adequate compensation to the families of the victims of both dead and injured. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Yes, Sir. Next, the Central Government should immediately create avenues for local employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have repeatedly told the hon. Members that they should raise only one issue. Hon. Member Shrimati Tejaswini Gowda to speak now.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Sir, just one minute. The next demand is that the Central Government should grant a minimum of Rs. 100 crore in the CSR scheme. My last point is this. â€¦ (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Sir, this is related to this issue. Please allow me. This is very serious. I request the Government to take immediate steps to start production in the three underground mining centres. Thank you, Sir.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, I want to associate with the hon. Member on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.